

## **HKICT Awards 2025 Winners Stories**

### **Smart People Grand Award - Smart Hub: Telecare Project for Rural Villagers of North District**

If one word is used to describe the Telecare Project for Rural Villagers of North District, I would choose "Smart Hub". It functions like a central hub, connecting cross-disciplinary collaboration and bringing together rural neighbours, including volunteers and villagers.

The Telecare Project for Rural Villagers of North District integrates telemedicine technology with Internet of Things (IoT) solutions, bringing general out-patient services directly into rural communities. Elderly patients travelling to follow-up appointments often involves many challenges. We have successfully reduced the average consultation time from 4.7 hours to just half an hour, sparing many seniors the physical strain of long journeys.

Through IoT technology, health data collected by medical devices are uploaded to the cloud, such as blood pressure and blood glucose levels. Doctors can then access the data instantly through the Doctorgram platform. While doctors remain in their offices, nurses and healthcare assistants bring the necessary equipments into the villages. This approach overcomes the limitations of phone consultations, where doctors cannot fully assess the condition of patient.

The risk of infection is extremely high for the traditional follow-up model. During the pandemic, rural areas and some elderly care centres also experienced severe outbreaks. This prompted us to seriously consider whether telemedicine could offer a more appropriate and sustainable solution.

For service expansion, we are also exploring extending our services to private residential care homes for the elderly. On the technology front, we have achieved a major breakthrough. We will soon introduce drone delivery services to transport medication directly to village offices.

With official recognition, this model can be further promoted and replicated in other regions. I hope to encourage the technology sector to engage more closely with the social welfare and healthcare sectors, so that together we can develop practical and impactful innovations.